THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Under Section 12 of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, the primary duty of the Corporation is to organize and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanced development of broadcasting on radio and television. Therefore, Prasar Bharati is not being run on commercial basis and hence are not maintaining profit and loss account. However, the deficit between income and expenditure of Prasar Bharati is being met by the Government since accounts of Prasar Bharati were de-linked from Government. A total of Rs. 3368.65 crores has been provided by the Government to the Corporation from 1st April 2000 to March 2003.

Exemption of films from entertainment tax etc .

581. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines for exemption of films from entertainment tax/duty to the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that various State Government have exempted films from entertainment tax/duty despite failure to fulfil prescribed conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Entertainment Tax is levied by State Governments. However, on occasion, the Central Government has recommended to the State Governments that Indian Panorama films, international and national awarding films and children's films etc. may be exempted from Entertainment Tax.

(c) and (d) No data is maintained by the Central Government in this regard.

Exclusive news channel by Doordarshan

†582. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN': SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.